REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 7-15 and 22-24 have been withdrawn from consideration.

The Section 112, first paragraph, rejection of claims 1-5 and 16-21 is traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Claim 1 has been revised, without prejudice, to emphasize that the claimed composition is a mixture of tripeptides (i.e., peptides of 3 amino acids) wherein a portion of the tripeptides contain an amino terminal or carboxy terminal proline (Pro). The claimed mixture is a protein hydrolysate, or a reaction product of the hydrolysis of a protein. One of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that hydrolysates of proteins contain mixtures of peptide fragments of the larger protein. The protein hydrolysate of the claimed invention is produced by hydrolysis of a protein with a proline-specific endoprotease and a tripeptidase. The specification teaches that proline-specific endoproteases and tripeptidases are known in the art. One of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate how to use endoproteases and tripeptidases to make the presently claimed protein hydrolysate, without undue experimentation. Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art will know how to use the claimed protein hydrolysate, such as in a manner described on page 16 of the present specification.

The claims are submitted to be supported by an enabling disclosure. Withdrawal of the Section 112, first paragraph, rejection of claims 1-5 and 16-21 is requested.

The Section 102 rejections of claims 1-5 and 16-21 over any of Ito (Nature 403, pages 680-684 (February 10, 2000)); Pfister (Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual

Science, June 1995; 36(7):1306-16); Haddox (U.S. Patent No. 6,310,041); and St. Pierre (U.S. Patent No. 5,856,308), are traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are requested in view of the following distinguishing comments.

The cited references fail to teach each and every aspect of the claimed invention, as detailed below.

Ito does not describe a protein hydrolysate, which, as described above and in the claims, is a mixture of peptides produced from the hydrolysis of a protein or a mixture of proteins. The reference is understood to only describe specific tripeptides.

Pfister does not describe a protein hydrolysate, which, as described above and in the claims, is a mixture of peptides produced from the hydrolysis of a protein or a mixture of proteins. The reference is understood to only describe specific tripeptides derivatives.

Haddox does not describe a protein hydrolysate, which, as described above and in the claims, is a mixture of peptides produced from the hydrolysis of a protein or a mixture of proteins. The reference is understood to only mention complementary peptides for the PGP sequence.

St. Pierre does not describe a protein hydrolysate, which, as described above and in the claims, is a mixture of peptides produced from the hydrolysis of a protein or a mixture of proteins. The reference is understood to relate to artificial collagen, which is a polymer of polypeptide triads. The cited patent does not relate to tripeptides but polypeptides twisted in a helix. The cited patent does not teach or suggest tripeptides in a protein hydrolysate, as presently claimed.

Withdrawal of the Section 102 rejections is requested.

The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned in the event anything further is required in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

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